

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 556

By McDaniel

A RESOLUTION to urge the National Park Service to complete the Eastern Legacy Special Resource Study and recommend inclusion of Eastern Legacy sites in the State of Tennessee in the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

WHEREAS, the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail was established by Congress in 1978 and extended to the west from Wood River, Illinois, to the mouth of the Columbia River in Oregon and Washington; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 110-229, Section 343, enacted in 2008, directed the National Park Service to conduct a Special Resources Study to assess the suitability and feasibility of extending the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail by including Eastern Legacy sites, which are the historic routes and sites in the east that were vital to the preparation and planning of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery expedition; and

WHEREAS, extending the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail eastward fulfills the objectives of the National Trails System, established in 1968, to provide for the ever-increasing outdoor recreation needs of an expanding population and to promote the preservation of, public access to, travel within, and the enjoyment and appreciation of open-air, outdoor areas and historic resources of the nation; and

WHEREAS, expedition planners made inquiries for the purchase of boats to be built in Nashville, Tennessee, and troops for the expedition were recruited from Fort Southwest Point in Kingston, Tennessee, and traveled across the State to join the expedition company; and

WHEREAS, on his return to Washington from the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1806, Meriwether Lewis stopped at Cumberland Gap on November 20, 1806, to make an astronomical

observation to assist in settling the controversial Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky, and Tennessee state lines; and

WHEREAS, Meriwether Lewis traveled to Memphis and on the Natchez Trace in Tennessee in October 1809, while carrying his journals from the Lewis and Clark Expedition, in part, to meet with the publisher to publish the journals to expand American knowledge of the West; and

WHEREAS, Meriwether Lewis died and is buried in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Meriwether Lewis's journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition were preserved by transporting them to Nashville and across the State of Tennessee to be delivered to Washington; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee created Lewis County, Tennessee, in honor of Meriwether Lewis; and

WHEREAS, tourism is a major component of Tennessee's economy and the addition of Tennessee to the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail would greatly benefit the tourism industry and overall economy of the State; and

WHEREAS, the extension of the Lewis and Clark Historic Trail would include trails in each of the three grand divisions of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the extension of the Lewis and Clark Historic Trail in Tennessee would rely primarily upon extant resources and volunteer contributions and would require no expenditures from the State of Tennessee and no significant expenditures from the federal government; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we urge and petition the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior to expeditiously complete and provide to Congress the Eastern Legacy Special Resource Study.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the report of the Eastern Legacy Special Resource Study should include a recommendation that the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail be

extended to the east by including the historically significant eastern corridors of the Corps of Discovery expedition for the period of 1803 through 1809.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerk is directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Tennessee; the Commissioner of Tourist Development; the Tennessee Congressional delegation; Jonathan B. Jarvis, Director, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240; Cameron H. Sholly, Regional Director, Midwest Region, National Park Service, 601 Riverfront Drive, Omaha, NE 68102; and James L. Mallory, Vice Chairman, Lewis and Clark Trust, Inc., 1867 Bellefonte Drive, Lexington, Kentucky 40503.